

VOLUME 07 | ISSUE 50 | FRIDAY | April 18, 2008

Democratic candidates square off in debate before mostly student audience

TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

The battle for the democratic nominee in Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District took front stage Tuesday night at UNO as candidates Richard Carter, 30, and Jim Esch, 32, debated issues and took questions from students regarding their campaigns.

Carter and Esch are vying for the opportunity to challenge incumbent Rep. Lee Terry in the general election on Nov. 4. The second district covers Douglas County including Omaha and its suburbs.

The debate was held in the Milo Bail Student Center and drew more than 100 supporters, many of whom were students. Reflecting the youth in the audience, both candidates are relatively young themselves. This is Carter's first foray into public office; Esch ran unsuccessfully in 2006 against Terry.

Carter is currently an economics professor at Metropolitan Community College. He also served in the Air Force Reserve in Iraq and Afghanistan. Esch is an Omaha-based attorney who graduated from Creighton.

Political science professor Carson Holloway served as moderator of the event, with 10 questions selected beforehand and 30 minutes for audience questions. *Gateway* Editor-in-Chief Scott Stewart moderated the audience question portion.

Despite both belonging to the Democratic party, each candidate worked to differentiate himself, focusing on national issues like Social Security, universal health care and tax cuts.

Carter, focusing on his experience



photo by Bill Wendt

Congressional democratic candidates Jim Esch (right) and Richard Carter (left) addressed students and the UNO community in preparation for Nebraska's primary, on May 13.

in economics and service in the armed forces, said that in order to stop a potential economic recession, "we must balance the budget. A balanced budget is crucial to a healthy economy."

He said he supported giving tax cuts to the middle class and letting tax cuts expire for the rich until the nation's budget was balanced.

Esch said the tax cuts enacted by President George W. Bush would need

to be extended beyond the top 1 percent of the income bracket and that bipartisan agreements would also need to be reached in Congress for progress to be made.

Another differentiating factor between the two candidates arose with questions regarding illegal immigration. Esch said that while he supported a national identification card, more should be done

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Red tape aside, more all-ages shows to be allowed in metro

SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Several hours after the Omaha City Council approved a measure to allow teens to attend many of the city's previously 21-and-over shows a local band took the stage a couple blocks away, illustrating some of the councilmen's concerns over the measure.

Quixotic performed at Downtowns Blues, 1512 Howard St., on Tuesday night. At different points in the show, a crowd member, the bartender and the bar's owner joined the band on stage.

The status of karaoke, the presence of erotic dancers and other concerns came up as the councilmen deliberated over an ordinance that establishes rules to allow youth under 18-years-old to attend shows at venues where the primary business is the sale of alcohol.

Deputy City Attorney Tom Mumgaard said during the meeting



photo by Scott Stewart

The temperature in the legislative chamber of city hall ranges from 74.1 degrees to 81.1 degrees, as around 200 people gathered to show their support for the ordinance.

the city has allowed businesses whose primary focus is not the sale of alcohol to allow minors on the premises, citing the Qwest Center, Sokol Auditorium and the Orpheum as examples.

"Basically, that exception just does not fit what has grown into Omaha as a live music scene in the traditional bar," Mumgaard said.

Venues like Slowdown and The Waiting Room, "traditional bars" in the city's eyes, are part of the growing live music scene in Omaha.

"It comes down to a culture thing more than anything else for us. I mean, it's why we built it here, and it's why we're doing what we do. I mean, it's about providing something to Omaha,

and it's about providing something to Omaha that everyone can enjoy, and it's about keeping people here," said Jason Kulbel, co-owner of Slowdown. "We've had a lot of people that we know move, move on to different cities, many after high school age and feel like that's a major

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Graffiti causes the evacuation of a Douglas County middle school.

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Surgeon general visit



The acting surgeon general visited campus to talk about the dangers associated with underage drinking.

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Winning streak at 14



With an ERA of 1.94, Dust Koca has been leading the UNO baseball team in its current 14-game streak.

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Machinima cinema



A new form of 3-D filmmaking makes use of gaming engines rather than CGI techniques to generate graphics.

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Out in the field



Gateway Contributor Mike Bell embedded himself with ROTC for a day's worth of army training.

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Boocker selected as dean of College of Arts and Sciences

TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

More than 3,000 UNO students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences will have the opportunity to meet their new dean starting this summer.

It was announced Tuesday that David Boocker had been selected as dean, the result of a national search and four finalist campus visits. Boocker's appointment will begin in July, after current dean, Shelton Hendricks, retires.

"Dr. Boocker brings a wealth of experience and leadership to UNO's oldest and largest college," said Interim Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Sheri Noren Everts in a university press release. "David is an able administrator, scholar and teacher who embraces the challenges and opportunities a metropolitan institution presents. He is a great fit for the university."

Boocker is currently chair and professor of the department of English and journalism at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill. He earned a doctorate in English literature from UNL in 1988; his bachelor's and master's degrees were earned at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in 1980 and 1983.

"It's a daunting challenge and a great responsibility and I look forward to that challenge and look forward to meeting students as much as anything else," Boocker said.

Being an outside hire, Boocker said his greatest challenge would be integration.

"The first thing I have to do as the dean is listen," Boocker said. "Any time you bring in an administrator from the outside, first thing they have to do is learn about the institution and the culture. I look forward to the challenge and responsibility."

UNL was the last university Boocker attended as a student, creating a unique connection to the state and the university system.

"UNL, I'm happy to say, prepared me for the career I've had," Boocker said. "I graduated in 1988 and obviously I started as a faculty member, became department chair and all that starts with a solid foundation and the department at UNL prepared me for that."

Although his appointment is still subject to the approval of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, Boocker said he was planning on visiting campus early, feeling things out before the official start date.

"I will probably be on campus in June, be traveling back and forth between Macomb and UNO and starting the process of meeting people and sitting down with Dean Hendricks and begin the mentoring process," Boocker said.

Surgeon general speaks out on dangers of underage drinking

JILLIAN WHITNEY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

For better or worse, drinking for many college students is a regular part of life. However, underage drinking could lead to more than just legal problems, warned acting U.S. Surgeon General Steven Galson.

Galson visited campus Tuesday where he participated in an open forum in the Milo Bail Student Center on the dangers of underage drinking.

On that same day, Patty Spady was also on campus, echoing Galson's message. Spady shared the story of Samantha, her 19-year-old daughter, who died of alcohol poisoning in 2004.

Samantha has since been the focal point of the Student Alcohol Management Spady Foundation, which supports effective alcohol awareness programs with an emphasis on high-risk consumption.

The surgeon general was invited



U.S. Surgeon General Steven Galson provided a chilling look at underage drinking on campus Tuesday.

From DEBATE: Page 1

in enforcing laws with employers.

Carter responded, saying that he would be a defender of civil rights and would not support such a form of identification.

Universal health care has been the focus of many recent presidential debates and was also addressed by the two candidates, each taking differing sides on the issue.

Esch said he supported a universal health care plan, with the focus on streamlining and making the industry more efficient.

"We have a system that's built on not necessarily what's in the best interest of the patient or the country, but what's in the best interests of these corporations. It's no surprise that pharmaceutical companies are the largest lobbyists and one of the most powerful groups in this country. ... The system is broken. Of course there needs to be some sort of compromise," Esch said.

Carter said he believed that competition in the industry would allow for more innovation and lower prices; however, that there should be a system in place for those citizens unable to afford health care.

"There would be several thousand laid off here in Omaha in the insurance industry," Carter said. "We need competition. The system that I propose will foster creativity, will lower costs through competition, but also will retain the private sector so we have invention, but also provide for those who just can't afford it."

Addressing another economic issue on the horizon, both candidates said changes needed to be affected in regards to Social Security. Carter supported making sure money put into the system was not diverted elsewhere but said that changes to income caps would be a "re-distribution of the wealth."

Esch supported possibly raising the retirement age and eliminating income caps in order to prevent Social Security from bankrupting itself.

Nebraska's primaries will be held May 13. Whoever wins - Carter or Esch - will face Terry, a five-term incumbent, in November.

Crime Log

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sunday, April 13

12:33 a.m. Campus Security was dispatched to a disturbance complaint at Scott Village. A visitor was requested to leave campus for the night.

Tuesday, April 15

7:09 a.m. A university employee reported vandalism to university property at the Center Street location. The incident occurred between 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 26, and 3 p.m., Monday, April 14.

to visit by Nebraska's First Lady Sally Ganem as part of a national first spouses' initiative, called the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation.

More than 100 students, faculty and community members attended the open dialogue where Galson shared the health and professional dangers of underage drinking.

"We want to protect the ability of our youth to learn and adopt lifelong skills that give them the greatest chance of professional success," Galson said. "What I am here to tell you is that underage drinking can interfere with that chance for success."

Galson said the problem is often not given the attention and concentration it needs to be effectively addressed.

"What many people don't realize, what many college students don't realize, is the deep and profound scope of this problem in the United States. We know that

28 percent, getting close to a third of all 12- to 20-year olds, that's almost 11 million people, are current alcohol drinkers," Galson said.

He reported that, according to surveys given to students, that same group drank on an average of six days in the past month and consumed an average of five drinks per day they drank.

"This is a threat to their future and a threat to their health," Galson said.

Galson said the best way to address underage drinking is with open discussions between children and parents.

"The most important thing parents can do is talk with their kids about the issue, talk to their kids about it very, very frankly. Make sure that they understand the issue and the consequences," Galson said.

Kent Flemings, a sophomore exercise science major, said that with few alternatives offered on campus, many students would still turn to drinking for entertainment.

"I thought the forum was good, but I think one problem that he didn't talk about is giving the student body something else to do. He talked about not drinking, but colleges aren't giving students things to do other than go out and drink," Flemings said. "Maybe you don't want to drink one night, but what are the other options, because everybody else is out drinking, so what's there to do?"

Getting to campus: Biking, walking, running

TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

Tomorrow is Earth Day. However, earlier this week, many UNO students got a jump-start on using alternative transportation.

The second annual "Trek to Campus" event, a class project for Organization and Administration of Physical Education, aimed to raise awareness of both reducing carbon monoxide and increasing the wellness of the university community.

Focusing on the benefits of bicycling, walking, running or carpooling to campus, the project provided breakfast, trail maps, free Metro Area Transit bus passes, water bottles and T-shirts.

Nearly 40 members of UNO's community had pre-registered for the event, with about 20 signing up as they passed by the station in Elmwood Park.

"I think the main benefit is just being more aware how close people are to campus, so they know they can walk to campus, not drive their cars," said John Day, a member of the class. "Main thing is to try and get people from a mile, mile and a half, two miles, [to] see the advantages of not driving their cars."

Earth Day events will be taking place throughout Omaha tomorrow, with the majority in Elmwood Park.

"We knew Earth Day was coming around at the same time, so we wanted to try and get it related, so people knew it was coming up," Day said.

While the project has a real-world impact, it has begun each year in the classroom. Professor John Noble, who teaches the class, said that students seem to respond better to projects like these.

"It's to get some practical experience with doing administrative stuff," Noble said. "It seems to be that the students are more interested in getting these kind of experiences than learning everything through lecture."



UNO swimmers Katie Hubbell, Carrie Murphy, Ashley Barna and Tessa Edwards (left to right) walk together from Elmwood Park to UNO on Wednesday.

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Sports

Jason Sibson | Sports Editor

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sports@unogateway.com | April 18, 2008



Between games on Wednesday, UNO honored the five seniors on this year's team. From left: Leslie Svoboda, Brianna Cataudella, Alison Jergenson, Jenifer McDowell and Chanel Reaves.

Softball keeps playing hard ball Team moves to 6-0 in NCC, improves winning streak to 12

SEAN OWENS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO softball team improved their season record to 34-6 following a double-header home sweep of North Central Conference foe Augustana on Wednesday night. The 9-1, 6-2 Maverick victories over Augustana signified the last home games for UNO in NCC play.

Anticipating the move to the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association next season, UNO understands what will be needed to bring home the final NCC crown to Omaha.

"We are happy where we are sitting right now, but we still have a tough road ahead," said Head Coach Jeanne Scarpello. "We have nine games next week and four this weekend. ... Our team really knows what's at stake in these upcoming games."

The Mavericks defended their home turf against Augustana with superb authority, holding the Vikings to only four runs combined in the two-game stand. Leading the way for the Mavs once again was senior infielder Leslie Svoboda and senior catcher Brianna Cataudella.

In the first game of the night, Cataudella gave the Mavs a lead in the first inning, pounding a three-run double off the left field wall. Later in the third, junior outfielder Amanda Bader hit her first home run of the year, a two-run blast, to give the Mavs a comfortable lead. Another four runs were added in support of freshman pitcher Beth Haley's five strike-out performance. Haley improved her record to 14-2 in the 9-1 victory.

"Our offense has definitely kept us in a lot of games," Scarpello said. "Our team really plays off of each

other. Our pitchers support our hitters and our offense provides such great run support for our pitchers. It really builds our team's confidence."

In the second game of UNO's final NCC home-stand, the Mavericks once again saw a stellar performance from a senior star. This time it came from the bat of Svoboda, who brought a familiar surge to the UNO offense.

Svoboda's final home game of her career was an outing that would be considered extraordinary to most, but was one that is quite in-line for UNO's third baseman. She finished the game 2 for 3, with a single, a triple and two RBIs. Combined with a masterful pitching performance by sophomore Melissa Negrete, Svoboda's bat guided the Mavericks to a 6-2 victory.

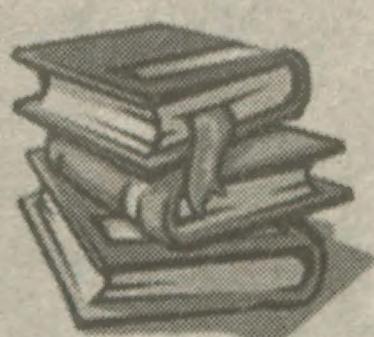
In the victory, Negrete improved her record to 11-2 on the season. Pitching on senior day, Negrete said she senses a supreme level of commitment that the Maverick senior leaders are bringing in this final NCC season.

"They are all amazing," Negrete said. "They have all played a huge part this year and are really focused on ending it on a good note and reaching that World Series."

"They are all going to be missed greatly next year."

The Mavs will now take their 12-game win-streak to a place with great make-or-break implications - the road. They will face tough road trips at St. Cloud State, Minnesota Duluth, South Dakota and Wayne State, as well as a five-game tournament in Mankato, Minn., at the end of April.

With a 3-2 road record, this stretch will undoubtedly tell the UNO fan-base, as well as the players, what kind of team this 12-in-a-row winner really is in the end.



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Spring cold strikes UNO's track meet

BENJAMIN MCCALL
CONTRIBUTOR

The frigid spring cold of the Midwest reared its ugly head over the weekend just long enough to collide with the UNO track and field team's schedule. The Mavericks participated in the Concordia University Invitational on Sunday against Concordia, Hastings College, Doane College, Nebraska Wesleyan and Morningside College.

Sunday was far from being the perfect day for a track event, though. The falling snow from the day before had stopped, but the temperature was still discomforting to fans, coaches and runners alike.

"It was cold and it was windy," said Head Coach Steve Smith. "We were scheduled for the 4x400, but dropped it because it was just too cold. We didn't run the starting events either because of the weather."

Originally, the event at Concordia was scheduled for Saturday. Due to inclement weather, the competition was moved to the following day.

The delay may have set back the schedule, but it didn't set back the Mavs.

Despite the move and a shortage of runners for the event, the Mavs still did very well at Concordia. Kayla Koepke won the 400-meter dash title with a time of 58.95 seconds. The 4x100-meter UNO relay team also finished first.

Lisa Tesarek took second in the 800-meter run, and Molly Bell took third in the 100-meter dash.

"There is so much talent with so few girls," said senior distance runner Kaylen Harris. "The cold made everyone a little slower, but you're never going to have a perfect day."

Smith also noted that Harris turned in a personal best in the 1500-meter run. Harris finished fifth with a time of 4:58.98, five seconds faster than her previous best.

It was a successful race for Harris, who was a bit out of her element running the 1,500.

"I usually run the 10,000," said Harris. "It is a lot faster race in the 1,500 than it is with the 10,000-meter run."

The Mavericks won't have to worry about cold weather for their next invitational. UNO is heading to California for two events, starting on today with the Azusa Pacific Invitational.

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Dustin Koca delivers a pitch during Sunday's 14-inning 3-2 victory over Minnesota Duluth. Koca has a 1.94 ERA over eight appearances in his first and last season as a Maverick.

photo by Jason Sibson

Koca, Mavericks make it 14 straight

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

At this time a year ago, Dustin Koca was fighting for playing time at Coastal Carolina, one of the premier Division I baseball schools in the country.

He started eight games as a position player for the Chanticleers, and posted a 2.12 ERA in ten trips to the mound.

Now driven by desire to be home - Koca is a native of Papillion - and an even greater desire to play baseball, the senior has found a home at UNO.

"He contacted me and said 'Hey, I'd like to play for UNO,' and I said 'Hey, come help us win,'" said Head Coach Bob Herold. "The guy's a great player. He has professional potential as a pitcher, he's got a great eye at the plate and he's got power. He's a very, very

confident guy and he backs it up."

Koca's entire arsenal was on display during UNO's six-game home stand this week.

In a 14-inning marathon victory over Minnesota Duluth on Sunday, Koca's left arm allowed just two runs on three hits in 10 innings of work.

In Monday's double-header, Koca's bat did all the talking. His three-run, six-RBI day's work was part of 11-10, 14-2 victories that completed a four-game sweep of the visiting Bulldogs.

Koca then managed to outdo that performance on Tuesday with seven RBIs and two fence-clearing blasts. The barrage came at the expense of the Fort Hays State Tigers, who were sent packing following 10-7 and 11-5 losses.

After Koca's lukewarm start in his new uniform, fellow Maverick slugger Bryan Frew knew it was only a matter of time before his new teammate hit full stride.

"He started off slow I think, but we all knew he could do what he's doing now," Frew said. "I played with him in high school, and I knew he was a great player."

"He should be in a better league, but we're happy to have him."

Thankfully for the Mavericks, Koca's not alone. UNO has nine players hitting better than .300. Third baseman Brian Strawn and center fielder Chris Weimer boast averages well over .400.

The Mavs lead the North Central Conference in hits, runs, home runs, RBIs and plate appearances, and in most of those categories it's not even close.

UNO's pitching, once thought of as the question mark of this team, leads the NCC in strikeouts and runs allowed per game.

The Mavericks have outscored their opponents 134-49 during their last 14 games, and they've won them all.

The streak is one that last year's College World Series team didn't come close to reaching, and it's one that, according to Frew, doesn't ever have to end.

"Right now, it feels like the only way we can lose is if we beat ourselves," Frew said. "If we play our game, hit strikes, pick up the ball - it feels like we can't lose. We're just playing with a lot of confidence right now."



Senior left fielder Bryan Frew celebrates with teammates after scoring the winning run in Sunday's 14-inning marathon.

photo by Jason Sibson



Senior slugger Chris Weimer leads the North Central Conference in hits, runs, home runs and RBIs.

photo by Jason Sibson

It's all part of a will to win that, Herold noted, has not been lost on opposing teams.

"In three of the four games, [UMD] got ahead of us, and we came back and got 'em, and their coach said 'All I can say is you guys are absolutely relentless,'" Herold said. "Every time they think they got you, somebody else comes up with a big hit, or makes a play, or a guy comes up and strikes one of their guys out."

"I'm just real proud of our guys because they don't quit."

UNO (26-9, 8-0) now faces an excellent chance to stretch its winning streak to 18 games over the weekend. The Mavs will host NCC cellar-dweller Augustana (6-22, 1-7) at the Ball Park in Boys Town in a double-header on Saturday, then follow the Vikings up north for a double-header in Sioux Falls, S.D., the following afternoon.

Over the next two and a half weeks, UNO will play 19 more games, including 12 conference games, before hosting the NCC's final conference tournament May 8 through May 11.

Arts & Leisure

Charley Reed | Arts & Leisure Editor

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arts@unogateway.com | April 18, 2008

'Pot Culture' book brings stoners together

REVIEW BY
COLLEEN COUNIHAN
THE PITT NEWS (U. PITTSBURGH)

PITTSBURGH (U-WIRE) - Deep inside colorful glass pipes and smoky basements lies a culture that most know about, but few expose: It's called pot culture.

In an attempt to pull marijuana, the most commonly used drug in the United States, out of the closet, Shirley Halperin and Steve Bloom co-wrote "Pot Culture: The A-Z Guide to Stoner Language and Life."

The book covers all the basics and beyond, explaining the language, the life and the tricks of a subculture that has been growing and redefining itself since the first marijuana leaf was ever plucked from the ground.

Not coincidentally, the book will be released on April 20, also known as 4/20, the chosen day for everyone inclined to get together and smoke weed.

"We really don't think pot is a bad thing, it's been a positive influence and has spurred creativity," explained "Pot Culture" author and weed enthusiast Shirley Halperin in a phone interview. "We are making light of something that is a huge presence in a lot of people's lives."

Halperin wasn't alone in her investigation of the secret lives of potheads, though she does have a broad personal background in the area. Halperin met her coauthor of "Pot Culture," Steve Bloom, at her first journalism job at *High Times* magazine, the major literary resource for pot-lovers all over.

According to Halperin, Bloom was her managing editor at *High Times*, but it was his similar enthusiasm for weed, and for the band Phish, that forged a close friendship. Bloom also offered another knowledgeable outlook for the making of the book.

"It was really important to me that it be multi-generational. Steve really represents the baby boomers, the people who grew up in the '60s, stuff that I wasn't connected to because I was too young," she said.

One of the most important contributors to the book was a prominently large group of mainstream celebrities who spoke out on their favorite aspects of marijuana.

"That's what makes the book really special. We got all these people to come out and say

I smoke and I love it," said Halperin.

"Pot Culture" includes facts, quotes and photos from big names such as Jack Black, Matthew McConaughey, Dave Chappelle, Fall Out Boy's Joe Trohman and Matchbox Twenty's Rob Thomas.

From a more personal standpoint, some celebrities give lessons in the art of smoking weed. Redman will teach you how to roll a blunt, Adrienne Curry, past winner of "America's

Next Top Model," will educate you on how to hide the smell and Steve-O explains how to make a can bong.

The book even includes an in-depth interview with Melissa Etheridge and her personal experience using marijuana to combat breast cancer.

Beyond the star-studded references, the book takes its readers deep inside the quirky world of the everyday stoner. Explore the "seven stoner wonders of the world," read up on smart munchies and great stoner innovations and discover everything from drug references in Beatles songs to Jack Nicholson's "stoniest" movies.

When questioned about controversy over such enthusiasm and hype for an illegal substance, Halperin isn't too worried.

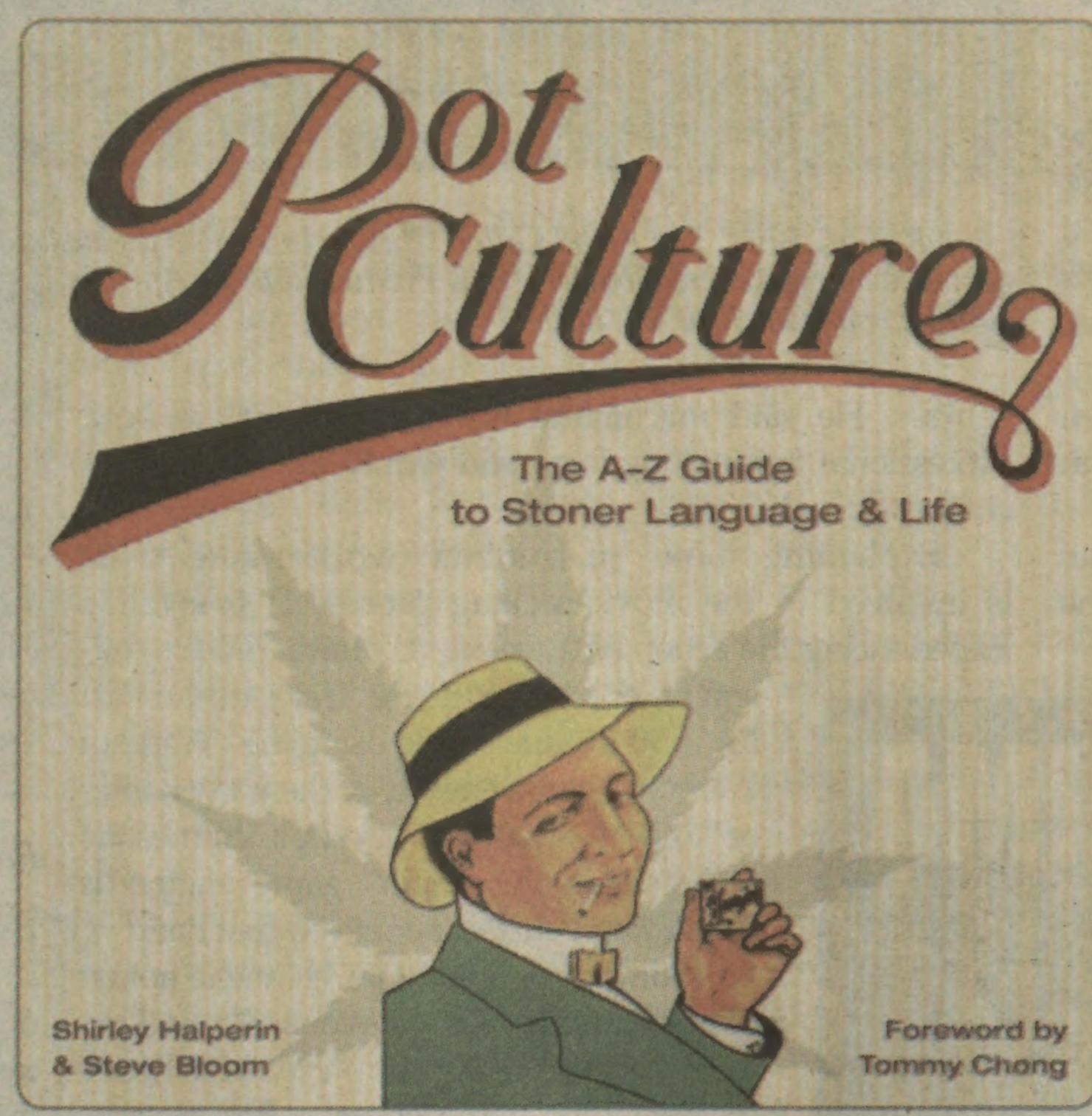
"I think we're anticipating some parents being perplexed about the book. We were very careful that the book didn't mention high school or anything kid-related," she said. "Our take is that there's a much bigger problem in our country with other things."

"Pot Culture" may just be the beginning in a movement toward mainstreaming marijuana through literature, according to Halperin. She hopes to explore the subculture a little further and zero in on less generalized features of the phenomenon.

"Maybe the ultimate stoner guide," she said. "Or perhaps the ultimate stoner travel guide – hippie-friendly spots all over the world."

Whether these ideas will come to life is unsure, but pot culture will be around regardless. Halperin hopes her work will bring together different people in the name of a common interest.

"I want people to have a good time with it. It's meant to be the kind of thing you read in a group," said Halperin. "Stoners come from different ages, races and backgrounds, but we all have something in common."



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MACHINIMA TURNS GAMERS IN TO STARS

COMMENTARY BY
SEAN DARRELL
CONTRIBUTOR

Move over Spielberg. Out of the way Tarantino. There's a new movie medium in town and gamers are at the heart of the form.

Machinima, pronounced muh-sheen-eh-mah, is a recent form of filmmaking that uses real-time, 3-D virtual entertainment, often exploiting video game engines. According to the Academy of Machinima Arts and Sciences, a non-profit organization established to "promote, organize and recognize the growth of machinima filmmaking and filmmakers," machinima is the convergence of filmmaking, animation and game development.

Imagine that every action as you control a game character within your favorite game world is recorded. The director then edits all the video you just recorded and inserts audio from a voice actor over the footage. It's relatively simple, but effective.

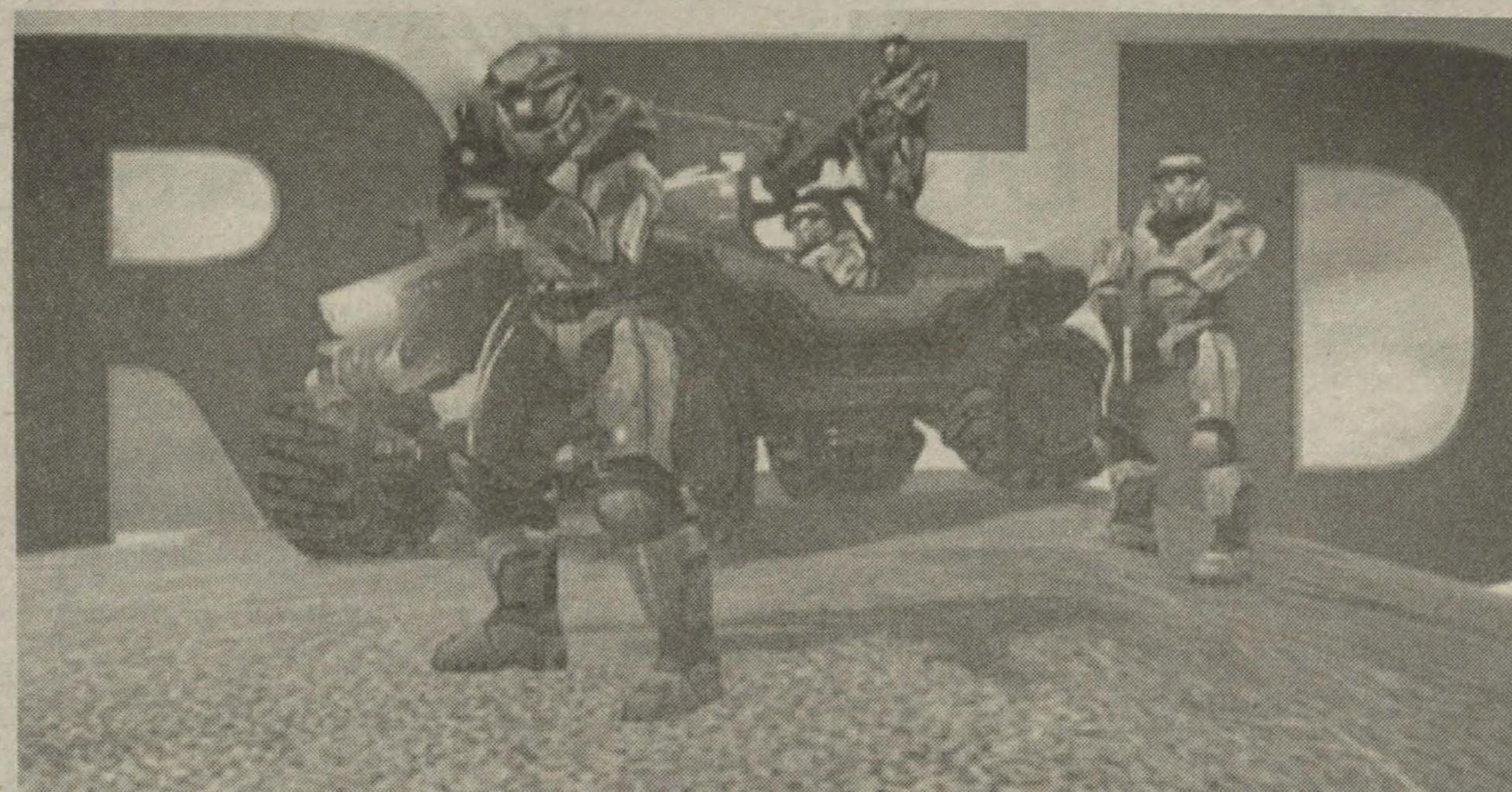
"It's a visual language [through] a game environment that is so familiar [to] so many people," said Russell Nordman, an intermedia and digital art professor at UNO.

The visual actors and sets are all within the 3-D virtual environment. The only external human factors are the voice actors and the director(s).

According to machinima.org, what differentiates machinima from computer-generated imagery, like in Pixar movies, is that the entire machinima film is created through real-time recording within the game engine. This takes the place of the creator designing every scene of the movie, one frame at a time.

The combination of filmmaking techniques, animation production and game engine technology allows designers to create inexpensive, time-efficient film productions.

Nordman explained that machinima is "using a contemporary medium to create artwork." Nordman is familiar with the form and is the only UNO professor placing emphasis on machinima within his digital media



"Red vs. Blue: The Blood Gulch Chronicles," a series based on the "Halo" video games, was created by Rooster Teeth Productions on April 1, 2003 and ended with its 100th episode on June 28, 2007.

courses. He said machinima has the potential to be a professional filmmaking form and would like to devote a course to machinima.

Explaining how machinima works and what is involved in the movie-making process is one thing. Experiencing the action and drama of Martin Falch's full-length, epic masterpiece "Tales of the Past III," a 90-minute movie using the "World of Warcraft" game engine, or the witty banter of "Red vs. Blue," an episodic sitcom-esque series using the "Halo" game engine, is something better experienced first hand.

Some people may laugh at the notion of machinima as a professional filmmaking form because of its simplicity and heavy use of video game engines, but as more mainstream software users learn the form, machinima may become a standard filmmaking method.

The best machinima films can take up to a year-and-a-half to make. Falch's "Tales of the Past III," hosted on warcraftmovies.com, is one such example, but most machinima pieces take a fraction of that time to create.

One person working on a single high-end computer can take anywhere from a month to year to create their own machinima movie with simple programs like Fraps and Moviestorm, according to machinima.com.

Comparatively, large budget movies like "Monsters, Inc." or "The Incredibles," require 400 computers working in unison for over 90 hours on some frames of the movie, according to machinima.org.

One can see how daunting it is to create a 90-minute CGI movie that runs at 24 to 35 frames a second if it takes that much time and power to create a single frame.

Machinima should seem more acceptable because of the user-friendly, extreme accessibility of the technique, especially for aspiring directors that have no prior animation or choreography experience.

With the addition of more photorealistic games like "Crysis," the power of multi-core processors and insanely fast video cards, machinima may become a standard for digital movie making in the near future. "We'll see machinima at regular film festivals [as a normal feature]," said Nordman.

For more information on machinima, visit machinima.org to access to books, movies and tools for getting started in the medium. Also, check out machinima.com, warcraftmovies.com or rvb.roosterteeth.com for the best examples of machinima in practice.

From CITY COUNCIL: Page 1

part of why we're doing Slowdown the way that we do."

During the discussion, councilman Frank Brown raised questions about hypothetical scenarios where the ordinance might allow teens on the premises, including an establishment that featured "strippers" and a live band.

Whether bars that offered karaoke would be included under the measure was also discussed, as was how to distinguish between "live music" and "karaoke." Bands doing performances like Quixotic's might push the boundary between the two.

Ultimately, the council approved amendments to specifically exclude venues that offered exotic dancing and karaoke from the ordinance.

Brown also questioned whether parents would use these venues as a substitution for child-care facilities.

"Here's a point I'm getting at: If I can pay \$10 or \$25 a show and drop off my 12-year-old on a Friday night and say 'OK, it's 7 o'clock. I'll be back at 1.' Then, in effect – and I'm not saying this would happen, because I think you guys run a great place, but it could happen," Brown said. "It could happen, where parents will go out and say 'OK, go to Slowdown, here's the money you need to get in, and we'll see you at 1 [a.m.]'"

Kulbel replied that he felt such a decision was "an interesting choice for something to do with your child," but he wouldn't turn such a child away.

"They could just as easily be dropped off at a Denny's, you know. They wouldn't get kicked out of there," Kulbel said.

The City Council voted 5-2 to pass the ordinance, with councilmen Brown and Chuck Sigerson voting against it.

The ordinance requires that teens under 18-years-old submit a notarized parental consent form before they can enter venues like Slowdown and The Waiting Room. The permission slips can be given for specific shows or for any show at the venue; separate forms are required for each venue.

Businesses that want to offer such all-ages shows will be required to obtain a permit, have appropriate facilities – including a permanent stage and a fixed sound system – and meet other requirements, such as providing wristbands and serving alcohol in different containers than non-alcoholic drinks. Venues will also be prohibited from selling more than two drinks at the same time, and pitchers will be banned completely.

Around 200 people attended the council's meeting, the majority consisting of minors who are impacted by the decision.

Jon Pitts, a 20-year-old student at Iowa Western Community College, said he thought the ordinance was a good idea, but still left some room for improvement.

"We're all pretty happy with what happened," said Kegan Kegley, a 15-year-old from Millard South.

The ordinance will take effect in two weeks if approved by the mayor, according to the *Omaha World-Herald*. The *World-Herald* also reported that Project Extra Mile, a statewide coalition against underage drinking, is considering a ballot initiative to reverse the ordinance.

A complete video of the meeting's proceedings is available at the City Council's Web site at www.ci.omaha.ne.us/departments/city_council.

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Features

Pamela Bouterse | Features Editor

Page 7

features@unogateway.com | April 18, 2008

Life of a cadet: Spending a day at ROTC training camp



photo by Mike Bell

Cadets set off early in the morning to participate in a long day of training regardless of the weather.

Contributor Mike Bell was embedded with the UNO/Creighton Army Reserve Officers Training Corps program during a training session at Camp Ashland.

While most people get to sleep off hangovers Saturday mornings, I took a day to join Major Dennis Murphy and 125 officers-in-training out at Camp Ashland, where 75 come from the Omaha area.

At 5:30 a.m., I was pulling on camouflage fatigues and tying my boots as I was told the importance of today's training.

"As bad as the weather is, we need to get them out here for simulated mission training," Murphy told me. "Today is a tough day. It's the kind of exercise that makes people realize that they may not be cut out for this line of work."

I was handed a rifle and told to join a group that was already packing and getting ready to march. I clumsily shouldered the gun and fell in with a squad of kids all within two years of my age.

Though the bullets in the magazines were blanks and the opposition forces were really just instructors in different sets of fatigues, everything was to be taken as seriously as possible. This day served as a dose of reality that no text

book or Hollywood film could convey. We were told to 'ruck-up' in two minutes. I looked around to see everyone quickly packing their equipment away, all 40 pounds of it, into their backpacks and then lay them down, propping their rifles at the ready in front of them.

They formed a circle, squad leaders in the center, and faced the wilderness. I sat on a log and looked out to see other squads of cadets that were marching into the woods on other missions. It was snowing now and the sun still hadn't warmed the horizon. I asked the soldier next to me what was going on.

"Right now we're setting up a perimeter while the squad leaders get our mission orders. In a few minutes we'll be on our way. And you really should get down from there," said MS4 Hernandez, a fourth year cadet and international studies major at UNO.

I got off the log and settled behind it, pointing my gun towards the grass.

"Are we actually expecting people to come running towards us?" I asked him, more as a joke than a serious question.

"Not right now, but later on we will, sure," he replied.

The team leaders called us forward to a small, crude terrain model in the dirt constructed of colored rocks and string.

The group brought out pens and little notebooks and wrote down what the squad leader told them. I didn't make sense of much that was said, with the exception that the enemies were described as "well-armed and have high-morale."

Before setting off, Murphy told the squad, "This weather is pretty crappy, I know, but it doesn't even rank in the top 50 of the worst conditions I've had to work in. No matter how cold it is, you have to do the job."

We trudged through the woods, single file, until we came upon a path

we had been told that the enemy patrols. We waited, laying in the grass and brush, until two enemy soldiers walked in front of us, looking around as though they couldn't see us.

I heard yelling as the soldiers turned and raised their rifles, but by then, shots rang out around me, and I recklessly pulled the trigger without even thinking. Smoke filled the air and the men on the path collapsed. Until that point, my feelings towards this day had been an odd mixture of sitting in a boring math class and a dull family camping trip.

After the rounds of shooting and running across the road to secure the area, I could not have been more awake. Hell, I had never fired a gun before and had only held a few antiques in my life.

There was no sense of fear, just a reverse to a more instinctual mind-set. But I knew that the circumstances could be different. I knew that those could be live rounds I was shooting, and that the soldiers could have been trying to kill me.

Crawling on my belly through the mud with a gun in front of me, finger on the trigger, I knew I would have to shoot someone before they shot me; it was basic and primal, something I don't feel in my day-to-day life. Nothing compares to that; not drinking, not working out at the gym and definitely not "Halo."

The mission was deemed completed

"It's the kind of exercise that makes people realize that they may not be cut out for this line of work."

after checking on the "corpses," and we walked back to where we had dropped off our bags. The troops sat down and talked about what had happened, reviewed the mistakes they made and what needed improvement. Everyone took responsibility for their actions and didn't mince words when describing their errors.

"You guys need to spread out more. If I had been a sniper, I could've picked all of you off one-by-one like ducks at the carnival," said one of the instructors.

The grim message was taken to heart, and everyone picked up and marched towards the next objective. All missions went extremely well, the cadets' training paid off and even though I personally did little, I felt like I helped to achieve whatever our goal was.

I walked away with a new understanding and respect for the people who go and do this stuff for real.

Though the missions I took part in were very simple and straight forward to everyone else present, to me they were confusing and seemingly obtuse. The terms and strategies seemed unclear to me until they were explained and only afterwards, when I had time to think, did everything make sense.

So I'd like to extend my gratitude to everyone in the armed forces for doing a job that, frankly, I cannot do, and wish them good luck wherever their duties take them.



photo by Mike Bell

Bell was treated as a fellow cadet as he spent a day training with future officers at Camp Ashland, which is located approximately 30 miles west of Omaha.

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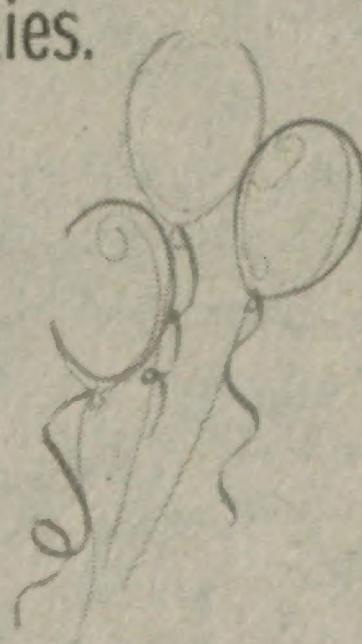


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